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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,178	11/07/2001	Masakazu Nishikawa	Q66603	4955

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SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, GLENDA P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2697

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/986,178

Applicant(s)

NISHIKAWA, MASAKAZU

Examiner

Glenda P. Rodriguez

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chi et al. (US Patent No. 5, 121, 258).

Regarding Claim 1, Chi et al. teach a method of magnetic transfer for performing magnetic transfer by bringing a master carrier bearing information signals and a slave medium into close contact with each other then applying a transfer magnetic field thereto, wherein the slave medium is conveyed in a manner that a recording surface of the slave medium faces vertically toward the master carrier (Col. 2, Lines 46-52), being held in a manner that an information-bearing surface thereof is held vertically, then bringing the information-bearing surface of said master carrier and the recording surface of the slave medium into close contact with each other (See Fig. 2, and Col. 5, Lines 22-32 and Col. 6, Lines 62-66).

Regarding Claim 2, Chi et al. teach all the limitations of Claim 1. Chi et al. also teach a slave medium being held at a close contact with each other then applying a transfer magnetic field thereto by a slave holder (Col. 4, Lines 25-30. The slave medium is held between both master medium, therefore it is known that it is a slave holder.)

Regarding Claim 3, Chi et al. teach all the limitations of Claim 2. Chi et al. also teach wherein the slave medium is positioned and held at the slave holder, and an alignment of the master carrier with the slave medium is performed via the slave holder (See Fig. 2 and Col. 5, Lines 22-32, Element 24, holds the slave medium and both master carriers (Elements 50 and 48)).

Regarding Claim 4, Chi et al. teach a magnetic transfer device that performs magnetic transfer by bringing a master carrier bearing information signals and a slave medium into close contact with each other then applying a transfer magnetic field thereto (See Fig. 2, Col. 2, Lines 46-52), said magnetic transfer device comprising:

Contacting means that holds the master carrier in a manner so that an information-bearing surface of the master carrier faces vertically and that brings the information-bearing surface into contact with the slave medium (Col. 5, Lines 22-32 and Col. 6, Lines 62-66);

Conveying means that conveys the slave medium in a manner so that a recording surface of the slave medium faces vertically toward said contacting means (See Fig. 2);

And magnetic field generating means that applies a magnetic field to the slave medium and the master carrier collectively held at the contacting means (Col. 4, Lines 55-60).

Regarding Claim 5, Chi et al. teach a magnetic transfer device that performs magnetic transfer by bringing a master carrier bearing information for transfer and a

slave medium into close contact with each other then applying a transfer magnetic field thereto, said magnetic transfer device comprising:

A close contact base that positions and holds said master carrier (Col. 5, Lines 22-32 and Col. 6, Lines 62-66);

A slave holder that positions and holds said slave medium and conveys the slave medium to a position for close contact (Col. 4, Lines 25-30. See Fig. 2 and Col. 5, Lines 22-32, Element 24, Chi et al. teach that Element 24 holds the slave medium in close contact with the master carrier.);

Pressurizing means that brings the slave medium held by the slave holder and the master carrier into close contact with each other (See Fig. 2 and Col. 5, Lines 22-32, Element 24, holds the slave medium and both master carriers (Elements 50 and 48));

A positioning mechanism that aligns the close contact base with the slave holder (Col. 4, Lines 17-30. Chi et al. teaches that when the actuator is given power, it drives Element 30 to a coupling by going in the direction specified by Element 34, thus placing the master and slave into close contact.);

And magnetic field applying means that applies a transfer magnetic field to the slave medium and the master carrier that are closely contacted with each other (Col. 4, Lines 55-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chi et al. (US Patent No. 5, 121, 258) in view of Bonyhard (US Patent No. 6, 181, 492). Chi et al. teach all the limitations of Claims 1 and 4, respectively. Chi et al. fail to teach wherein information signals that are magnetically transferred to the magnetic recording medium by the method are composed of servo signals. However, this feature is well known in the art as disclosed by Bonyhard, wherein it teaches that it information signals that are magnetically transferred to the magnetic recording medium by the method are composed of servo signals (Pat. No. 6, 181, 492; See Abstract). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Chi et al.'s invention in order for the medium to magnetically transfer servo signals in order transfer servo-patterns from slave to master disc without the use of a servo writer.
5. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chi et al. (US Patent No. 5, 121, 258) in view of Ishida et al. (US Patent No. 6, 347, 016).

Regarding Claim 6, Chi et al. teach all the limitations of Claim 5. Chi et al. fail to teach wherein either a plurality of positioning pins or a plurality of positioning holes are provided on the close contact base. However, this feature is well known in the art as disclosed by Ishida et al., wherein it teaches either a plurality of positioning pins or a plurality of positioning holes are provided on the close contact base (Pat. No. 6, 347, 016; See Fig. 20); either a plurality of positioning holes or a plurality of positioning pins are provided on said slave holder (Pat. No. 6, 347, 016; See Fig. 21 and Col. 28, Lines 17-26. Ishida et al. teach master (Element 201) holding a slave disk (Element 202) on close contact being held together by a plurality of bolts inserted in the holes (Elements 209).); and the positioning mechanism performs alignment by engaging the positioning pins with the positioning holes (Pat. No. 6, 347, 016; See Fig. 20). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Chi et al.'s invention in order for the medium to ensure a uniform contact between the master carrier and the slave disk.

Regarding Claim 7, Chi et al. and Ishida et al. teach all the limitations of Claim 6. Ishida et al. further teach wherein the diameters of the positioning holes are designed to be greater than those of the positioning pins (Pat. No. 6, 347, 016; See Fig. 20, The diameter of the pins (Element 209) is greater than the slave and master medium.), and the positioning pins being engaged to perform alignment (Pat. No. 6, 347, 016; See Col. 28, Lines 24-26. Ishida et al. teach a slave being held and aligned to a master for ensuring magnetic transfer.). It would have been obvious to

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a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Chi et al.'s invention in order for the medium to ensure a uniform contact between the master carrier and the slave disk.

Conclusion

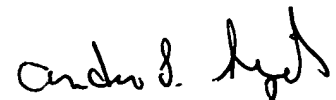
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Glenda P. Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703)305-8411. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday: 7:00-5:00; alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on (703)308-4825. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-6743 for regular communications and (703)308-6743 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9000.


gpr

August 5, 2003



ANDREW L. SNIEZEK
PRIMARY EXAMINER